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GP3751

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent application of : Attorney Docket No.:
Rainer Hahner *et al.* : 4070-63
Serial No.: 09/360,676 : Group Art Unit:
Filed: July 26, 1999 : 3751
For: FUEL TANK WITH INCORPORATED : Examiner:
DEFORMABLE RESERVOIR : not yet assigned

#41105
2/28/00
N. Breunler

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, submitted herewith are copies of the references listed below and on the accompanying Form PTO-1449.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before receipt of the first office action on the merits. No certification, petition, or fee are required. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1). Further, the item of

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below, with sufficient postage, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

BY Debbie A. Estabro

DATE: 10/29/99

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information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from the German Patent Office in counterpart application No. 198 33 698.5 dated August 18, 1999, which is not more than three months prior to the filing of this application. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). Please charge any fee that is due, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-1135.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to review the reference identified herein and on the accompanying form PTO-1449 and make it of record in the instant application as required by MPEP § 609.

This Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed as a representation that the references are material or that no better art exists.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENT

Germany 196 50 244 A1

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CONCISE EXPLANATION PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3)

German Patent Application No. 196 50 244 relates to a surge pot to be disposed within the fuel tank of a motor vehicle. The surge pot is installed in the tank through an assembly opening. The surge pot has a bottom and a side wall, and can be changed between an assembly configuration of small cross-section, for passing through the assembly opening, and an operational configuration of larger cross-section.

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The embodiment of Figure 1 is provided with an elastic portion 14 that in the operational configuration curves outwards, but can be curved to the inside to reduce the diameter of the surge pot in the assembly configuration. The embodiment of Figure 2 has a wall portion 16 that is connected to the body of the surge pot by a film hinge 17 and elastic portions 18. The embodiment of Figure 3 has a wall portion formed by a bellows 20, 21.

Respectfully submitted,

Rainer Hahner, et al.

BY:


THOMAS J. DURLING
Registration No. 31,349
Seidel, Gonda, Lavorgna
& Monaco, P.C.
1800 Two Penn Center Plaza
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Tel: 215-568-8383
Fax: 215-568-5549
Attorney for Applicant

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